(d) Double Stack Container is already operating on Samakhiyali-Bhildi-Palanpur section.

Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Udaipur rail line

1290. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total projects in hand for gauge conversion in Gujarat in Western Railway;

(b) the progress on Ahmedabad-Udaipur route gauge conversion; and

(c) by when the Ahmedabad-Udaipur route gauge conversion project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Gauge conversion of Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur, Bharuch-Samni-Dahej, Bhildi-Samdari Wansjalia-Jetalsar, Surendranagar-Dhrangadhra, Patan-Mahesana and Sabarmati-Khodiyar sections are progressing.

(b) This work is not sanctioned.

(c) does not arise.

Selling of liquor in trains

† 1291. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in A.C. coaches of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and other trains liquor is made available to the passengers by the contractors on the rates as asked;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many bottles of liquor has been confiscated in a raid in Delhi-Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani train;

(c) whether Government have also received complaints in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of steps taken by Government in order to avoid such incidents in trains, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, on 31.5.2006, Railway Protection Force/North Central Railway during surprise check, apprehended two coach attendants (working under Private Contractors) of AC-III tier coaches of Train No. 2424 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express at Allahabad and recovered 15 bottles of whisky from their possession. Both of them have been prosecuted under section 144 of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Important trains including Rajdhani and Shatabdi are being escorted by Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police. As the complicity of the coach attendants and other railway staff and contractors men deployed for providing services in the trains has transpired, watch is being kept on them as far as practicable by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel deployed for escorting and access-control duties.

Inspection of catering and cleanliness at stations

† 1292. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had made surprise inspection of catering and cleanliness at the stations of Delhi;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government would fix the liability of officers to ensure sanitation at the stations and the availability of quality food in required quantity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some deficiencies were noticed in regard to quality and quantity of food items and cleanliness of bed rolls.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.